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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE QUESTION CONCERNING HAITI

1. The present document is the third report I am submitting to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 16 of resolution 917 (1994).

2. During August 1994 the situation in Haiti deteriorated further. The country is politically stymied and economically paralysed. The population there has for months been anxiously awaiting a solution to the crisis.

3. On the night of 31 July 1994, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 940 (1994), a state of siege was decreed by the "provisional President". It replaced the state of emergency which had been proclaimed on 3 June 1994. It might give the semblance of a legal foundation to further restrictions of public freedoms.

4. On 1 August 1994, the Ministry of Justice asked the government commissioners to initiate prosecution of citizens who had called for revolt or foreign invasion. On 4 August 1994, the Ministry of Justice announced that public action had been initiated "against Mr. Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Mr. Fritz Longchamp, guilty of the crime of high treason for having addressed to the United Nations ... letters which served as the basis for that Organization's resolution 940 (1994) ...".

5. On 1 August 1994 the Ministries of the Interior and Information addressed a warning to the local press, inviting it not to publish alarmist or tendentious news and not to make itself the instrument of foreign propaganda under penalty of temporary suspension. On 12 August 1994 the press was forbidden to publish without prior authorization information or statements issued by foreign embassies or their press services in Haiti.

6. Journalists, both Haitian and foreign, are under increased pressure and threat. On 31 July 1994, a United States television crew was arrested for filming the airport zone, which had been declared a strategic zone. The crew was expelled from Haiti on 4 August 1994. Two Haitian associates of the crew were detained until 11 August 1994. A journalist from a local radio station who was sought by the military has been living under cover since 31 July 1994. On

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

8 August 1994 the "Arc-en Ciel" radio station had to stop transmitting as a result of threats issued by armed civilians. Two regional radio stations have been prohibited from broadcasting Voice of America information programmes.

7. Since the expulsion of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) on 13 July 1994, the United Nations has no first-hand information on the repression in Haiti. A group of Haitian human rights protection organizations, the Plate-Forme des Droits Humains, has drawn up a partial list of the human rights violations committed in July. It has identified 41 cases of extrajudicial executions, 200 cases of arbitrary arrest, 76 cases of inhuman and degrading treatment and 150 cases of searches and various forms of intimidation. The rights of expression and association are being severely repressed, as is evidenced by the attempt on the life of former Senator Reynold Georges and the attacks against the residence of Senator Clark Parent and the headquarters of a political party favourable to the return of constitutional order.

8. The Haitian economy is on the verge of collapse. Since last month, the national currency has lost 40 per cent of its value. There is galloping inflation, and shortages are becoming more severe. The prices of staple food products have more than doubled. According to international economists, almost four fifths of the population are unemployed.

9. On the humanitarian level, international assistance is continuing under increasingly difficult conditions. Food aid is provided daily to 940,000 people. Programmes continue to be implemented in the fields of health, water, sanitary installations and agriculture. However, this assistance is encountering numerous obstacles. The local authorities do not issue, or delay the issuance of, the duty-free import licences required. For a long time, they blocked the most recent humanitarian delivery of fuel oil, as well as products imported by the United Nations such as medications or generators. They are also very reluctant to authorize the landing of humanitarian flights at Port-au-Prince. Lastly, the security of the local and international personnel remains an issue of great concern.

10. With respect to the enforcement of the sanctions adopted by the Security Council against Haiti, a bilateral arrangement was concluded between the Dominican Republic and the United States of America on 2 August 1994. Under the terms of this agreement, the United States will provide the Dominican authorities with the equipment required to monitor the border with Haiti. The multinational observer mission will be composed of 88 civilian and military observers and a support group of some 50 people. It should be deployed in the Dominican Republic before the end of August.

11. Since the adoption of resolution 940 (1994), the army has been setting up volunteer militias. It is drilling them in the handling of weapons against the prospect of a possible "foreign invasion".

12. In my view, we must make a last attempt to implement resolution 940 (1994) peacefully. I assigned one of my associates to an exploratory mission in order to consider the possibility of sending to Haiti a high-level delegation which would hold discussions with the military authorities. Unfortunately, this mission has not attained its objectives. I will keep the Council informed of the continuation of my efforts.